

Message Text

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12/73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 PM-07 SCI-06 DLOS-07 L-03 DOTE-00

EUR-25 AID-20 NSF-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 EPA-04 CEQ-02

DRC-01 /139 W

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P 232025Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO HEADQUARTERS U.S. COAST GUARD WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0387

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 5764

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R M R N

USCG FOR CAPT WALLACE

SECSTATE PLEASE PASS TO NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS: CI

SUBJ: METULA SITREP 19

FOLLOWING METULA SITREP 19 WAS COMPILED FROM MESSAGES RECEIVED
BY THIS EMBASSY FROM COMMANDER THIRD NAVAL ZONE, CHILEAN NAVY IN
PUNTA ARENAS, AND FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

METULA SITREP 19:

AS OF 201055 SEPT 74:

1. LATEST CHILEAN NAVY FLIGHT OVER METULA AREA REVEALED NO MAJOR
CHANGES IN POLLUTION FROM THAT REPORTED LAST, EXCEPT FOR A MODERATE
INCREASE IN SEEPAGE FROM METULA.

2. USCG ABOARD METULA REPORTS ALSO THAT 19 SEPT SEEPAGE INCREASED
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MODERATELY.

3. DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN TUGBOAT MANEUVERING BECAUSE OF STRONG CURRENTS AND WINDS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE REFLOAT EFFORT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MORNING OF 22 SEPT WITH POSSIBILITY OF A DELAY UNTIL 25 SEPT.

4. GENERAL REFLOAT OPERATION PLAN IS AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE OPERATION BY BALLASTING AND PRESSURIZING DAMAGED TANKS DURING LOW TIDE, AFTERNOON 21 SEPT. METULA WOULD THEN BE IN CONDITION FOR REFLOAT. MORNING 22 SEPT TUGBOATS WOULD BE IN POSITION. THESE ARE ZWARTE ZEE AT STBD BEAM, NORTH SEA AT PORT BEAM, SMIT SALVOR AT STBD QUARTER AND AGUILA AT HALF CABLE STBD. ONCE REFLOATED, METULA WOULD BE TOWED TO ANCHORAGE IN BAHIA FELIPE. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF STRONG

CURRENTS, ANCHORAGE WILL BE A BAHIA POSISION.

AS OF 211022 SEPT 74:

5. USCG ABOARD METULA REPORTS VERY LITTLE SEEPAGE 20 SEPT. BERGELAND ANCHORED AT QUINTERO AT 200200, AWAITING OFFLOAD ON 21 SEPT MORNING.

6. METULA REFLOAT OPS POSTPONED TWENTY FOUR HOUR DUE TO BAD WX CONDITIONS. OPERATION WILL COMMENCE BY EVACUATING ALL DAMAGED TANKS DURING LOW TIDE OF 222033. AT 230557, WITH ASSIST OF SMIT SALVOR AND CURRENTS, AFT SECTION OF METULA WILL BE REFLOATED. AT 230855, ONE HOUR BEFORE LOW TIDE, BOW SECTION WILL BE REFLOATED AND METULA WILL BE UNDER TOW BY SWARTE ZEE AND NORTH SEA.

AS OF 22100 SETP 74;

7. NO OVERFLIGHT TODAY. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT POLLUTION SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED DUE TO SMALL SEEPAGES REPORTED EARLIER.

8. REFLOAT OPS ONCE AGAIN POSTPONED UNTIL TUESDAY 24 SEPT DUE TO INTENSE WINDS IN THE AREA. REFLOAT OPS PLAN REMAINS SAME AS REPORTED 201055 SEPT 74, WITH EXCEPTION OF TIME CHANGES TO COINCIDE WITH TIDES

METULA SHOULD BE REFLOATED ONE HOUR BEFORE LOW TIDE AT 241036 SEPT 74

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9. INVESTIGATION PATROL, AT TIERRA DEL FUEGO REPORTS THAT INVESTIGATION OF POLLUTION DAMAGES CONDUCTED AT ANEGADA AND CATALINA POINTS REVEALS STREAKS OF OIL VARYING IN WIDTH FROM TWO TO FIVE METERS, DIMINISHING AS THEY FLOW OUT OF THE BAY. OIL STREAKS ARE SLOWLY DISSIPATING OUT TO THE ATLANTIC. FOWL, DAMAGE, AS ANTICIPATED BY PATROL, OFFICER AND MISS BAKER, IS QUITE SERIOUS. DEAD SPECIES FOUND BETWEEN REMO AND ANEGADA POINTS ARE APPROX IN NUMBERS: 300 CORMORANS, 50 PENGUINS, 20 SEAGULLS. SHELLFISH HAVE AN OILY TASTE

AND EVIDENT THAT THEY ARE SLOWLY DYING DUE TO LACK OF THE MICRO
PLANKTON, THEIR NATURAL FOOD.
POPPER

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Disposition Event:
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